



World War I Veterans

Of the 610 men from Loudoun County who served in World War I, 179 were African-American.

Veterans posed for this segregated photograph by the 1894 courthouse. Valentine B. Johnson, Samuel C. Thornton, and Ernest Gilbert lost their lives during the War. Until November 2021, their names were listed separately on the monument on the courthouse grounds. Their names were integrated alphabetically on the plaque that is seen now.

(Image courtesy of the Loudoun Museum and Loudoun County's African American Communities: A Tour Map and Guide. The guide was published by the Black History Committee of the Friends of the Thomas Balch Library)

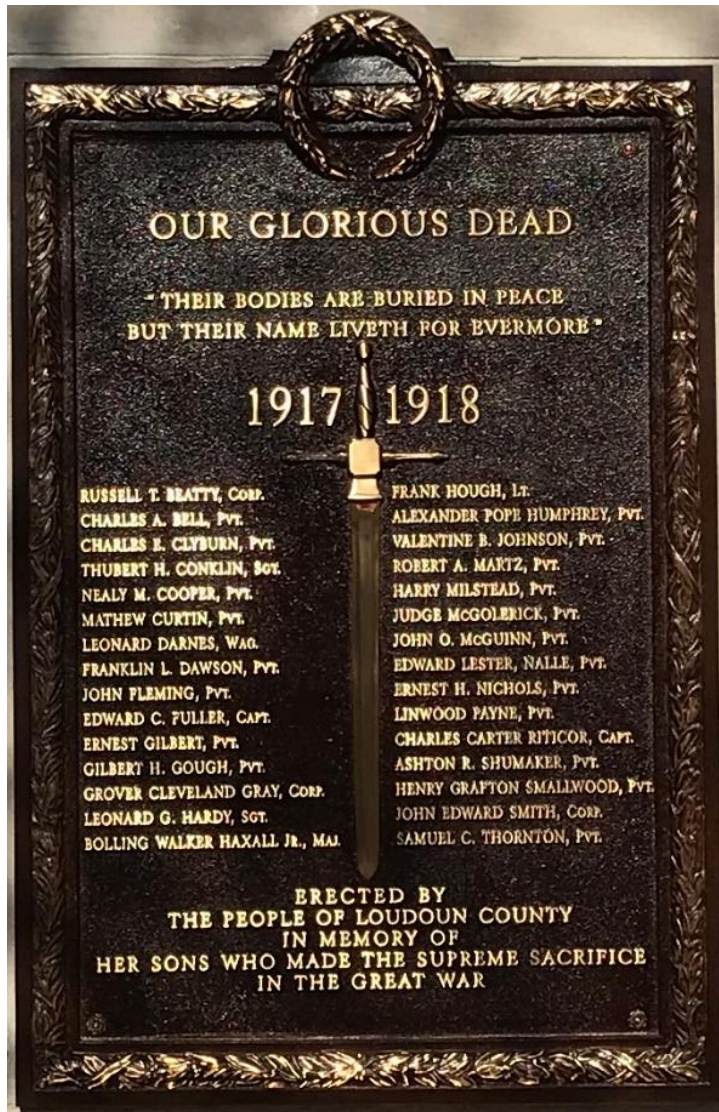


African American World War I veterans posed in front of the Loudoun County Court House just after the white veterans. Credit: The Loudoun Museum

MUSTER ROLL *Loudoun* COUNTY, VIRGINIA

	NAME	ADDRESS	AGE	COLOR	SELECTED SERVICE	VOLUNTEERS ARMY, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS
<i>Order</i>						
1176	<i>McCauley, John G.</i>	<i>Aldie</i>		<i>Wh</i>	<i>a</i>	
71	<i>McGuinn, John O.</i>	<i>Minison</i>		"	"	
263	<i>McDaniel, Charles R.</i>	<i>Round Hill</i>		"	"	
68	<i>McCarty, William M.</i>	<i>Aldie</i>		"	"	
33	<i>McDaniel, James</i>	<i>Round Hill</i>		<i>Col</i>	"	
135	<i>McDonald, Alastair S.</i>	<i>Leesburg</i>		<i>Wh</i>	"	
882	<i>McCarty, Alexander H.</i>	<i>Aldie</i>		"		<i>a</i>
740	<i>McDaniel, Carl F.</i>	<i>Round Hill</i>		"	<i>a</i>	
1260	<i>McCabe, James B.</i>	<i>Leesburg</i>	<i>2968136</i>	"	"	
1446	<i>McGibrick, Judge</i>	<i>Point of Rocks, Md</i>	<i>2968303</i>	"	"	
1454	<i>McWilliams, Chas. A.</i>	<i>Sterling</i>	<i>2968295</i>	"	"	
1525	<i>McFarland, William</i>	<i>Leesburg</i>	<i>33171861</i>	"	"	
438	<i>McQuay, Robert E.</i>	<i>Middleburg</i>	<i>3176888</i>	<i>Col.</i>	"	
1085	<i>McLudy, Robert J.</i>	<i>Middleburg</i>	<i>3632531</i>	"	"	
53	<i>McCarty, John E.</i>	<i>Areola</i>	<i>4634055</i>	<i>Wh.</i>	"	
74	<i>McDaniel, Lemuel</i>	<i>Purcellville</i>		<i>Col.</i>	"	
	<i>McDonald, Wm. E. G.</i>	<i>Leesburg</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>Wh</i>	<i>etc.</i>	<i>2c</i>

Loudoun's Clerk of the Circuit Court has two books [Muster Roll in the War with Germany](#) and the *World War Memorial Record* (only eight veterans are listed in Loudoun's war memorial record). Each county in Virginia was mandated to create a *Muster Roll in the War with Germany* listing county residents serving in the Armed Forces. Loudoun's roll includes 177 African-Americans and 443 White men who enlisted or were drafted during the war.



World War I Memorial on the Courthouse Grounds

The memorial bears a plaque with the names of thirty Loudoun County service members who fought and died in World War I. When the memorial was erected in 1921, during the “Jim Crow” era, the

names were segregated according to race, with the names of three African-American service members listed below two dividing lines that separated them from the names of the White service members.

On July 1, 2020, a new law took effect in the Commonwealth of Virginia permitting local governing bodies to remove, relocate, contextualize, or cover monuments or memorials for veterans of any war or conflict. The Board of Supervisors, with the support of the Foreign War Memorial Trust Fund Advisory Committee, authorized the replacement of the plaque to integrate the list of service members.

The new plaque was dedicated on November 11, 2021. The dedication ceremony included descendants of Loudoun African-Americans who lost their lives in World War I.



*Army Hospital Influenza Ward, 1918
Courtesy of the National Archives*

Levi Beamer, Influenza Survivor From Hillsboro, Virginia

Registered in August 1918 and was called to Camp Lee September 1, 1918. He at one time was in the hospital between the living and dead with the flu. His sister and brother was called to his bed side. He pulled through and was on his way to Newport News to start to France when the armistice was signed. He was discharged and arrived home in January 1919.

Influenza

The number of people from Loudoun County who died of influenza between 1918 and 1924 is not known. Five hundred million people were infected worldwide, and between 50 to 100 million people died from influenza. In the United States at least 28% of Americans were infected and over 675,000 died. The oral history above was submitted to Virginia's World War History Commission. It states that Levi Beamer (African-American soldier) from Hillsboro, Virginia, was sent to Fort Lee, outside of Richmond and became infected with influenza shortly after his arrival on September 1, 1918. In September 1918, an enormous outbreak of the flu began in Norfolk, Virginia. The flu quickly spread to Fort Lee and the City of Richmond.